

Urban District Council
of Ulverston.

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Year ending December 31st, 1940.

ULVERSTON :

FLETCHER AND ROBINSON, QUEEN STREET.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Ulverston.

: Annual Report of the :
Medical Officer of Health.

ULVERSTON,

JUNE, 1941.

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health's circular indicates the desirability of reports being curtailed as much as possible, and confined to essential and urgent matters affecting the Public Health.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT, In spite of the many extra duties imposed upon your Officials on account of the war emergency, I am satisfied that your district suffers from no lack of supervision.

WATER SUPPLY. Although the district suffered from an abnormally low rainfall it was never found necessary to restrict the supply of water to consumers and the quality as proved by chemical and bacteriological examination has been beyond question.

During the year 396 lineal yards of concrete lined mains were laid from Shannon House to the reservoir as part of a scheme to augment the supply to Ulverston via the trunk mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No extensions or alterations of the sewerage system have been effected during the year. By rodding and flushing the low lying sewers have been kept free from silting.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES. The report which your Inspector furnishes shows that the Cowsheds and Dairies have been the subject of regular inspection, and generally speaking one can feel that our milk supply is produced under satisfactory conditions.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. The whole of the meat supplied to the retailers in your district and in the Ulverston Rural District is now slaughtered in the Slaughter House in the Gill. Your Inspector takes his turn with the Inspectors of the Rural District in inspecting all the animals before and after slaughter, and I think we may have every confidence that any meat showing signs of disease will be condemned.

ANNUAL REPORT—1940.

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

July, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee :—

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to present a summary (which will, of necessity, be briefer than is usual) of the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1940, relating to Public Health Administration.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, Etc.

Number of cases dealt with	...	42
„ „ houses affected	...	38

As a result of action taken, all defects were remedied.

HOUSING, SLUM CLEARANCE, Etc.

As a result of hostilities, the Slum Clearance and Re-housing programme is in abeyance. The tables given in last year's report will, therefore, show no change. Fourteen houses were built by the Council during the year and nine by private enterprise; all these houses had been commenced in the previous year.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. Sewers and Drains have received the usual systematic inspection and dredging, flushing and repairs have been carried out when necessary.

The procedure required by the Factories Act and Shops Act have been attended to.

REFUSE REMOVAL has been carried out satisfactorily, in spite of a depleted staff; increased population and Salvage work have severely taxed the resources of this department.

RATS.

As in previous years, posters have been displayed, pointing out the urgency of exterminating rats and mice and, with this in view, rat poison has been issued free to ratepayers throughout the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Scarlet Fever notifications received	4
„ „ Diphtheria	12
„ „ Meningitis	1
	—
Total	17

The premises of the patients have been fumigated after the patients' removal to hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply has again been maintained without interruption and, when tested, found to be, in all respects, suitable for domestic use.

396 yds, of 12-in. concrete lined cast iron main have been laid from the Reservoir to Shannon House as part of the scheme to give an increased supply to the Ulverston R.D.C.

During the year the Ministry of Health issued instructions requiring the chlorination of all public water supplies throughout the country. The necessary plant was ordered, but, owing to the exceptional demand, the delivery of the plant has not yet been made. The scheme will, therefore, be carried out when the plant arrives in 1941.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. TELFORD HAGUE,

Sanitary Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ...	...	...	3,196
Population, 1931	...	...	9,284
„ 1941	...	...	11,100
Inhabited Houses, 2684		...	...
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£54,270
Sum represented by 1d. Rate		...	£214

POPULATION. The estimate of the increase in the population for the year 1940 is made from the figures given to me by the Food Control Officer and can only be approximate, but there can be no doubt that it is an under rather than an over estimate.

	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1000
BIRTHS—Legitimate	170	93	77	
Illegitimate	4	1	3	
Totals	174	94	80	15·2

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRTHS.

1st Quarter ...	...	23	25	48
2nd Quarter ...	...	26	17	43
3rd Quarter ...	...	30	25	55
4th Quarter ...	...	15	13	28
Totals ...		94	80	174

In arriving at the correct number of deaths in a district, and calculating the death-rate per 1000 of the population, it is necessary to enumerate the total number of deaths occurring in the district, subtract from the total the number of deaths of non-residents in the district and which have been transferred and then add the number of deaths of persons usually resident in the district but who have died outside.

For the year under review 171 persons died in the district; of this number 47 were non-residents and were transferred, giving the deaths occurring in the district as 124, and to these must be added 7 deaths of residents who died outside the district, the correct number of deaths being therefore 131.

			Total	Males	Females	Death Rate per 1000
Legitimate	...	...	131	65	66	11·4
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0	
Totals	...	...	131	65	66	

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED.

			Males	Females	Total
Under one year	...	...	4	3	7
Between one and sixty-five	...	...	26	25	51
Sixty-five and upwards	...	...	35	38	73
Totals	...	...	65	66	131

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE DEATHS-

	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total		Death-rate
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	per 1000
North	6	5	0	1	3	9	2	5	11	20	
South	7	3	2	1	5	6	1	9	15	19	
East	5	1	4	2	6	5	5	5	20	13	
West	2	1	2	3	1	1	4	3	9	8	
Central	5	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	10	6	
	25	11	9	9	17	23	14	23	65	66	11·4

In the year 1939 there were 137 deaths, the death-rate being 14·8 per 1000.

It has to be remembered that our calculations are all based on an increased population.

INFANTILE DEATHS. To calculate the Infantile Death-rate we take the number of infants dying before reaching the end of their first year of life and divide by the number of births registered during the year. At this age period there were seven deaths, producing a death-rate per 1000 births of 40·2. In the year 1939 there were 10 Infantile Deaths, giving a rate per 1000 births of 64·5.

CAUSES AND WARD DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	North Ward		South Ward		East Ward		West Ward		Central Ward		Total		∞
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Congenital Defects	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Pneumonia ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Premature Birth ...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	3	

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Age Incidence of the Notified Cases and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1—5	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5—10	0	1	5	2	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
20—25	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
25—35	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35—45	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—65	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & up	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	3	6	7	6	3	0	1	1

Ward Distribution of Notifications and Deaths.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
North ...	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0
South ...	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
East ...	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
West ...	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
Central ...	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	3	6	7	6	3	0	1	1

Last year there were four deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs, equal to a death-rate per 1000 of 0·43. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of other organs.

This year there are three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, producing a death-rate of 0·29 per 1000. From Tuberculosis of other organs there have been two deaths, equal to a death-rate of 0·19 per 1000.

CANCER.

Last year, that is the year of my 1939 report, 17 deaths were registered as being due to the various manifestations of Cancer, a rate per 1000 of the population of 1'8. This year the number has been reduced to 11 or .99 per 1000. Calculated upon the changed population, this, to my mind, is a most satisfactory result.

WARD DISTRIBUTION.

		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000
North	...	1	3	4	
South	...	1	3	4	
East	...	0	0	0	
West	...	2	0	2	
Central	...	0	1	1	
Totals		4	7	11	9'9

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE INCIDENCE.

		35 & 45		45 & 55		55 & 65		65 & up		Totals	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Breast	...	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Stomach	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rectum	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Intestine	...	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Oesophagus	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Kidney	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pancreas	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals		0	0	2	0	0	5	2	2	4	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Except for the newly notifiable diseases, Measles and Whooping Cough, the year under review has been almost a record with regard to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases, and of the cases of Diphtheria notified only four were found on bacteriological examination to give a positive result.

	North Ward		South Ward		East Ward		West Ward		Central Ward		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1
Diphtheria	0	2	1	0	4	2	1	0	1	1	7	5
Measles	0	3	2	2	4	3	0	0	1	1	7	9
Whooping Cough	4	8	2	5	8	10	4	5	1	2	19	30
Encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Polio Myelitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	4	15	5	8	17	16	6	5	5	4	37	48

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Disease	Total	Under 15										Removed to Hospital		Deaths in Hospital
		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up	to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Diphtheria	12	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	4	1	0	12	0	0
Measles	16	0	1	1	2	10	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Whooping Cough	49	2	2	7	8	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Puerperal														
Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Polio Myelitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	85	2	5	8	11	37	5	0	6	1	1	22	0	0

In October of last year I immunised by what is called the "One Shot" method 313 children attending the various schools in Ulverston. This response to our appeal, 25.4 per cent. of the children attending our Day Schools, is not at all satisfactory, and I am hopeful for something much better in the future. Statistics indicate that Diphtheria will disappear in communities where all children from the age of one to 15 have been immunised. Surely parents are not going to deny their children a method of protection so simple and so harmless.

HOSPITALS.

A Hospital is provided by the County Council at High Carley in the Ulverston Rural District, providing 112 beds for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and 12 beds at Oubas House, Ulverston, for Tubercular Children. There are no Children's or Maternity Hospitals in the District. There is accommodation for 34 patients at the High Carley Hospital for patients suffering from Infectious Diseases; this is under the management of the Ulverston Joint Hospital Board. A War Emergency Hospital has been opened at Conishead Priory.

SMALL POX.—Should any case of Small Pox arise in the district, arrangements have been made with the Kendal Joint Fever Hospital Board to admit them to their Hospital at Kendal.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Motor Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital Board for infectious diseases, and motor ambulance provided for non-infectious diseases.

LABORATORY WORK.—Facilities are offered the Medical Practitioners for carrying out the Laboratory Investigations.

Before concluding my report, I must not omit to thank my colleagues and the Members of the Council for their ever ready co-operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON,

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.- D.P.H. Lond.

24th June, 1941.



